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The President's Daily Brief

February 23, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHINA-AFRICA

China's standing with Tanzania and Mozambique does not appear to have been affected adversely by differences over Angola. Tanzanian President Nyerere remains China's closest African ally. He and President Machel of Mozambique, however, have been among the leading African supporters of the Soviet-backed Popular Movement in Angola.

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Last summer Peking created a minor diplomatic flare-up when it tried to ship arms to opponents of the Popular Movement through Dar es Salaam. This incident and its implications for China's relations with other African backers of the Popular Movement probably played a major part in Peking's subsequent decision to stop support of any of the Angolan liberation groups.

A particular reason for China's not wanting a disagreement over Angola to affect relations with Tanzania and Mozambique is the importance of these two countries in Peking's dealings with other liberation movements in southern Africa

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A major Chinese concern arising from Angolan developments has been that Soviet support of the Popular Movement would lead other liberation groups to regard Moscow, rather than Peking, as an ally. Recent visits to the Soviet Union by several black revolutionary leaders, combined with increased coverage of the liberation groups by the Soviet media, can only have sharpened Chinese apprehensions.

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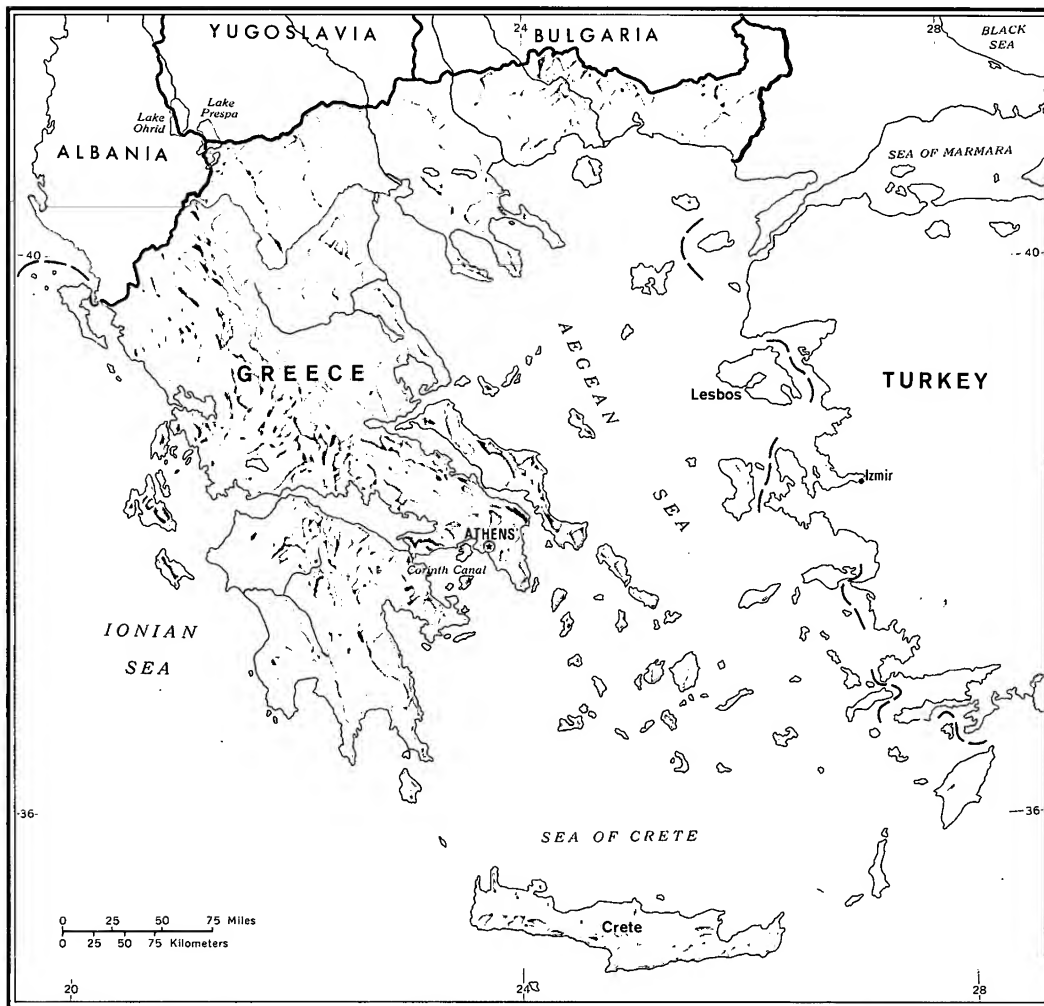
CYPRUS

The latest round of intercommunal talks which ended in Vienna on Saturday did not result in any progress on major issues. UN Secretary General Waldheim, under whose auspices the talks were held, managed to get the two sides to agree to a procedural formula for subsequent negotiations.

The Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot negotiators went to Vienna committed to an exchange of views on all the issues at stake, including the territorial question which the Turkish Cypriot side had refused to discuss in earlier rounds. Greek Cypriot negotiator Clerides proposed as an opening position that the Turkish Cypriots cede enough territory to leave them in control of about 25 percent of the country--they now control about 37 percent. Turkish Cypriot negotiator Denktash countered with only a statement of principles for a settlement. Efforts by Waldheim to get a dialogue going were not successful, according to a UN official.

According to a procedural formula agreed to for later meetings, Clerides will present written proposals to which Denktash must make written counterproposals. The two negotiators will meet with Waldheim again in May.

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NOTE

Turkey's air and naval exercise, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday near the Greek island of Lesbos, raises the possibility of an incident in the Aegean.

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The Greeks claim a ten-mile air space, while the Turks recognize only a six-mile limit and have informed the Greeks that the exercise area would come within eight miles of the western coast of Lesbos. Recent Greek-Turkish negotiations on air space rights and other matters of dispute in the Aegean ended without progress.

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The Turks conducted a similar exercise last May without incident, although the Greeks were prepared to intercept Turkish planes with antiaircraft guns and aircraft. Greek pilots at that time were under orders not to open fire without the approval of the defense minister.

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